Academic Policies and Services Committee (APSC)

Committee Members:
Haoxiang Luo, Chair, Engineering (2019)
Leslie Hopkins, Nursing (2018) [Executive Committee Liaison]
Gayle Shay, Blair (2018)
Jennifer Kim, Nursing (2019)
Sal March, Owen (2019)
Holly Algood, Medicine (2020)
Katherine Friedman, A&S (2020)
Peter Martin, Medicine (2020)
To be concerned with new schools, new programs and new degrees. To consider policies regarding academic honors, leaves, grants, promotions, departmental and divisional chairmanships, programs abroad, the academic calendar, career planning and placement, Vanderbilt University Library, Information Services, the bookstore, and the University Press.

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<th>Item</th>
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<td>1.</td>
<td>Continue: Review of academic programs</td>
<td>Task performed as proposals come to the Senate</td>
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**Background:** Reviewing new academic programs and degrees is a routine task for the APS committee.

**GOALS:**

1. Review new academic degree programs submitted to the faculty senate.
2. Provide consultative input for the individuals who submitted the proposal.
3. Make recommendation to the full Senate.

**ACTIONS:**

A new professional Master degree program, the Vanderbilt Genetic Counseling Program proposed by the School of Medicine, is being reviewed by the Committee.

**OUTCOME:**

1. The proposal has been significantly improved based on the Committee’s input. The review is now close to completion upon receipt of external letters of support.

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<td>2.</td>
<td>Continue: Financial relationship between VU and VUMC</td>
<td>April 2018</td>
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**Background:** This is a charge formed by the APS committee from previous year with the goal stated below. However, the charge was tabled due to the necessity for the General Counsel to address the issue of unionization in the spring semester.

**GOALS:**

1. The Committee should learn more about the Memoranda of Understanding that are created to govern financial relationships between University Central and the Medical Center, with specific focus on how these may affect faculty research, teaching, and work environment.
2. If possible, the Committee should facilitate sharing of the memoranda with the faculty.

**ACTIONS:**

1. A meeting has been set up in October for the APS Committee to meet with the General Counsel Audrey Anderson, Vice Provost John Geer, and VUMC
Health System Chief of Staff David Raitford.

2. The Committee is discussing how to prepare for the meeting.

3. Continue: IT Support

**Background:** Since Summer 2017, VU has adopted a new course management system, Brightspace, and the previous system, Blackboard, has been phased out. Given this major change, the APS committee would like to understand how well the new system serves faculty and students.

**GOALS:**

1. Assess faculty and student experience with Brightspace.
2. Assess technical support service for Brightspace.
3. Make recommendations if needed.

**ACTIONS:**

1. Haoxiang had a meeting with the Director of Center for Teaching (CFT) that provides support service for Brightspace to learn about the faculty/student experience and the resources for the support service.
2. The Committee will follow up with the CFT later in the Fall and also in Spring to see if it is sufficiently staffed to meet the demand for its service and if there are major problems with Brightspace.

**OUTCOME:**

1. An email communication to the faculty in School of Engineering has been facilitated to notify the faculty an issue about student enrollment in Brightspace.
2. Later, messages will be sent to the entire faculty through a senate newsletter to make faculty aware of Brightspace support and its limitations.

4. New: Export Control and Compliance (ECC)

**Background:** The Office of ECC could require faculty traveling internationally or international students/scholars working at VU to go through ECC procedures, which could be lengthy in certain cases, e.g., when graduate students need to do lab rotations and each lab needs to follow the ECC process and when both VU and VUMC ECCs are involved after VU-VUMC split.

**GOALS:**

1. Understand policy and practice of ECC on both VU and VUMC sides.
2. Recommend mechanisms to increase faculty awareness.

**ACTIONS:**

1. The Committee is now discussing how to facilitate educational meetings between the VU/VUMC ECC offices and the individual schools.
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<th>5.</th>
<th>New: Graduate school</th>
<th>April 2018</th>
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|     | **Background:** There have been some recent changes or issues in the Graduate school, e.g., application fee, graduate student unionization, and new investment. Some faculty are concerned how these may affect graduate student recruitment, student life, and research.  

**GOALS:**  
1. Address faculty concern by facilitating communications between the Graduate School and the faculty.  

**ACTIONS:**  
1. The Dean of Graduate School has been invited to address at a faculty meeting in School of Engineering.  
2. The Committee will assess the need for similar mechanisms in other schools. |